TRAVANCORE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, SUPPLEMENT.

TUESDAY, 21st September 1897.

Abstract Proceedings of the Travancore Legislative Council.

The Council met in the Dewan's room, Public Offices, at 3 P. M., on Saturday the 11th September 1897. / 28th Chingom 1073.

PRESENT.

The Dewan ... ... *Presiding.*

M. R. Ry. K. Krishnaswamy Rao Avergal, Dewan Bahadur., F. M. U.
M. R. Ry. V. Nagam Aiya Avergal, B. A., F. R. H. S.
M. R. Ry. P. Thanu Pillai Avergal, M. A.
Mr. I. H. Prince.
M. R. Ry. K. P. Sankara Menon Avergal, B. A., B. L.
M. R. Ry. E. Ramier Avergal.
Mr. K. K. Kuruvila, B. C. E.

Secretary.—I beg to announce that the General Clauses Bill and the Irrigation Bill, passed by the Council on the 29th May 1897, received the Royal assent on the 13th and 19th June respectively and have become law as Regulations II and III of 1072—the first coming into force at once and the second from the 1st Chingom 1073.

The following papers were then laid on the table.—

Number.	From whom received.	Subject.
1	Eravi Krishnan and 224 others of Kunnatur Taluq	On the Marumakkathayom Marriage Bill.
2	N. Krishnan Valiathan, Chengannur Taluq	Do.
3	Krishnan Krishnan and 3 others do.	Do.
4	Narayanan Ramen and another do.	Do.
5	Narayanan Govindan, Kottayam Taluq	Do.
6	Krishnan Kunjan and 3 others do.	Do.
7	Aiyappen Narayanan and another Chengannur Taluq.	Do.
8	Parameswaran Neelacunden, Kottayam Taluq ...	Do.
9	Ramen Aiyappen do.	Do.
10	Govindan Aiyappen do.	Do.
11	Krishnan Velayudhan do.	Do.
12	Govindan Padmanabhen do.	Do.

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No.	From whom received	Subject.
13	Ramen Parameswaren, Kottayam Taluq ...	On the Marumakkathayom Marriage Bill.
14	Narayanan Kunjan do.	Do.
15	Aiyappen Krishnan do.	Do.
16	Raman Velayudhan do.	Do.
17	Kasavan Aiyappen do.	Do.
18	Krishna Pillay and 3 others, Criminal Vakils ...	On the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill.

THE EPIDEMIC DISEASES BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the better prevention of the spread of dangerous epidemic diseases. The Bill has already been placed in the hands of the members and I think it hardly necessary to go into any lengthy discussion as to the object of the measure. In fact, as I have stated in the Objects and Reasons, this has already had operation as law under section 10 of Regulation II of 1063. It ceased to have effect from the 15th Chingom last and it has to be revived by the Council as a permanent enactment. When the outbreak of the plague in and about Bombay was assuming terrible proportions this Government in common with others had to enforce all the necessary precautions. The dire visitation has after all been only scotched—not killed yet—and the necessity for these safeguards continues all the same. Let alone the academical discussions of learned conventions about the origin of the disease, the lessons of bitter experience cannot be ignored that enforcement of sanitation, segregation of the affected and other preventive and precautionary measures do tell. It is essential in the paramount interests of public health that the executive should be armed with the necessary powers in this behalf and it is in this view that I commend the measure to the Council as one to be placed permanently on our Statute Book. It will be seen that the exceptional powers will be resorted to only when the ordinary provisions of the law for the time being in force are found insufficient for the purpose.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Mr. Thanu Pillai also introduced the Bill and moved that the rules be suspended and it be at once considered and passed by the Council.

He said.—The usual procedure is—when a Bill is introduced it is published in the Gazette before it is finally considered by the Council. Though technically there has been no publication of this Bill under the rules, it has been sufficiently long before the public—has been in operation for these six months—and judging from the fact that no adverse comments have been elicited, there is every reason to believe that the necessity of the measure is not considered open to question. It is a close adaptation of the British Indian Enactment. It is now urgently needed for the continuance of the arrangements that have already been made. On these considerations, I beg that the President may in exercise of his power suspend the rule in regard to publication which, as I have pointed out, is a mere formality in the present case.

Mr. Ramier.—I have, of course, nothing to say against the measure in itself. But it occurs to me that it would be well to have some publication. I doubt whether otherwise we may not be creating an undesirable precedent. The measure having been passed under the emergency section and having appeared in the Gazette as law under due sanction the public cannot be considered to have had an opportunity of expressing their views. I do not mean to put this forward as any definite proposition but merely suggest it as a point for consideration.

Mr. Nagam Aiya.—Mr. Ramier's observation is a very good one—But this is a measure of an exceptional character and has to be exceptionally treated.

Mr. Kuruvila.—The President has the power to dispense with such formality. I cannot think of a case where such power could be more reasonably exercised.

President.—If it is considered absolutely necessary I have no objection to the publication. But it means delay and during the interval the arrangements already made which are working smoothly will be quite upset.

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